

PROCEEDINGS IN HONOR

OF THE

MEMORY OF JOHN H. DILLARD

In the Supreme Court, 7 May, 1896, the Attorney-General announced the death of JOHN H. DILLARD, formerly an Associate Justice, which occurred at his home in Greensboro, and the Court adjourned as a mark of respect to his memory. Thereupon a preliminary meeting of the bench and bar was held, Chief Justice Faircloth presiding and Thomas S. Kenan acting as secretary. A committee was appointed to draft resolutions, and the following gentlemen were named: James E. Shepherd, L. M. Scott, R. R. King, J. T. Morehead, James C. MacRae, S. F. Mordecai and Thomas S. Kenan. An adjournment was then taken until Thursday, 14 May, 1896, when the committee, through its chairman, Mr. Shepherd, submitted the following report:

"JOHN HENRY DILLARD was born in Rockingham County, on 29 November, 1819. After preparation at Patrick Henry Academy, in Virginia, he entered the University of this State, remained two years (taking first distinction in his studies), and left on account of ill health. He began to read law in the office of the late James T. Morehead, at Greensboro, and graduated in 1840 from the law department of William and Mary College, in Virginia. He practiced at Richmond and at Patrick Courthouse until 1846, when he removed to Wentworth. He was Commonwealth Attorney in Virginia, and was County Attorney and Clerk and Master in Equity in Rockingham County for a number of years. On 13 January, 1846, he married Ann I. Martin, daughter of Joseph Martin, of Virginia. In 1862 he raised a company of volunteers and entered the service of the Confederate States as captain. After his removal to Greensboro in 1868 the law firm of Dillard, Ruffin & Gilmer was formed, and continued until 1876 as Dillard & Gilmer, Ruffin having retired on account of ill health. When he removed to his farm in Rockingham County he formed a partnership with his son-in-law, John T. Pannill, which continued until he was elected, in 1878, as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The record he made in the discharge of the duties of that high office was highly creditable, and one which should be the pride of any judge to enjoy. He resigned in the spring of 1881, and was succeeded by Thomas Ruffin, Jr. He then moved back to Greensboro, and continued the practice in association with other members of the bar. For a number of years he was connected with Judge Dick in the conduct of a law school at Greensboro, which gained great reputation. He was for years an elder in the Presbyterian Church and a teacher in the Sunday school, and in the performance of these duties he displayed the same ardor and perseverance and ability which characterized him as a practitioner at the bar and as a judicial officer. He was modest, and self-assertion was not one of his traits—honors were literally thrust upon him. He possessed a unique attractiveness—plain in his habits, but his social graces were always observable. He was greatly beloved by all who knew him, and notably by the members of the bar. His courtesy to them and especially his assistance to the young lawyer in advice, etc., were ever conspicuous. His greatest reputation, perhaps, was that of an equity lawyer, and his high personal character, great integrity and sterling honesty were known of all men.

"He died at his home in Greensboro, 6 May, 1896.

"*Resolved*, That in the death of JUDGE DILLARD we recognize the great loss sustained by the State and the profession, and we tender to his family our warmest sympathy.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family, and be presented by the Attorney-General to the Supreme Court, with the request that